BEAUMONT PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

December 2002

Approved by:

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Date: February 12 2003

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BEAUMONT PROVINCIAL PARK

Located on the southeastern shore of Fraser Lake, Beaumont Provincial Park occupies the original site of historic Fort Fraser, established by Simon Fraser in 1806. The site was chosen for its commanding view of the lake and summer breezes. The main features are a sandy beach with attractive lake views and an open camping area. There is a wetland area south of Highway 16.

Located on Highway 16, 36 km west of Vanderhoof and 129 km west of Prince George, the park lies within the Nechako Plateau bordered to the west and north by the Hazelton, Skeena and Omineca mountains. The area is characterized by gently rolling terrain forested with willow, poplar, birch, spruce and occasional stands of aspen.

Primary Role
The primary role of Beaumont Provincial Park is to provide camping and lakeshore recreation (boat launch and beach) opportunities for Highway 16 travelers and for residents of the Nechako Valley. The park features a long sandy beach and boating access to Fraser Lake. 49 campsites are located in a variety of tree cover and open areas.

Secondary Role
The secondary role is to protect a heritage site which was associated with the Hudson Bay Company post of Fort Fraser. Fort Fraser was the third settlement established by Simon Fraser. It was built in 1806, after McLeod Lake and Fort St James. In 1821 the Hudson Bay Company took over the fort from the Northwest Company. The fort had close ties with the villages of Natleh and Stella for furs and salmon.

The Carrier Indians traversed well-used trails to trade with other villages. These same trails were later used by explorers and fur traders who journeyed between Fort Fraser, Fort McLeod and Fort St. James.

Around 1880, the original fort was re-located closer to the Nautley River and Natleh village.

Known Management Issues	Response
Declining occupancy	$15 overnight camping fee is too high for the local market. (An adjacent campground provides showers and hookups at the same cost). Camping fee should be adjusted to be locally competitive. Showers are required to reverse the decline in use.
Facility Maintenance	$60,000 has been allocated in FY 2002/03 for facility reconstruction (roads, campsites, host site, and day-use area). However, an additional minimum allocation of $20,000 is required to complete the project.
Boundary Review	The 191 ha park is fragmented into 8 pieces by various corridors and right-of-ways. Boundary should be assessed to rationalize protected area

	values.
Heritage Restoration	Deterioration of old barn (~1910) - which is the last remaining building associated with Fort Fraser. The barn is starting to twist as a result of the rotting sill logs. Unless restoration funds become available, the barn will eventually have to be leveled due to public safety concerns. The barn provides an excellent example of a traditional hewn log and joint construction method.
Invasive Species	Monitor along railway and highway corridors for invasive species.
Railway and Highway Spill Potential	Develop a Spill Contingency Plan in conjunction with other agencies.

Zoning

Beaumont Provincial Park includes 2 different zones:

- Intensive Recreation (provision of a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities) in the campground area located north of Highway 97. Approximately 41 ha (21%) of the Park is zoned Intensive Recreation.
- Natural Environment (protection of scenic values and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment) in the remainder of the park. Approximately 151 ha (79%) of the Park is zoned Natural Environment.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

Situated in the poorly represented Bulkley Basin Ecosection. 2.72% of this ecosection is protected; Beaumont contributes only 0.45% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Primarily situated in the SBSdk with a small area of SBSdw3.
SBSdk – 5.32% protected. Beaumont contributes only 0.26% of the overall protected areas system representation of this unit.
SBSdw3 – 4.24% protected. Beaumont contributes only 0.06% of the overall protected areas system representation of this unit.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values	X	Ellis Island Ecological Reserve located near to park. Sensitive nesting site for rare birds.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	A wetland which occurs in the park has not been assessed for ecological values.

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor — X — Serves Highway 16 travellers
- local recreation — X — Serves residents of Nechako Valley

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities	X	Historical/cultural educational opportunities associated with the fur trade and Fort Fraser. Ellis Island Ecological Reserve

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation — Unknown

Special Feature	X	Many culturally modified trees in park Site of historic Fort Fraser – no original structures remaining

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs	X	Other protected areas associated with fur trade (Carp Lake and Fort McLeod). Paarens Beach and Sowchea provide additional camping north of Vanderhoof. Finger-Tatuk provides camping and boating to the south of Vanderhoof. Stuart River, Mount Pope, Sutherland, Rubyrock and four ecological reserves are also located with 75 km.
Co-operative Management Arrangements		
Partnerships		
Vulnerability	x	A wetland is included in the park. The impacts to it from the railway and highway corridor are unknown. The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the park) for the park and rated them as low significance. Five stressors/threats were identified for the park: roadways, railways, suburban expansion, campground and day use, all of which were rated as low significance.
Relationship to Other Strategies		

Area: 191.8 ha

Date of establishment: February 16, 1960

Zoning Map - Beaumont Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 500
m

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